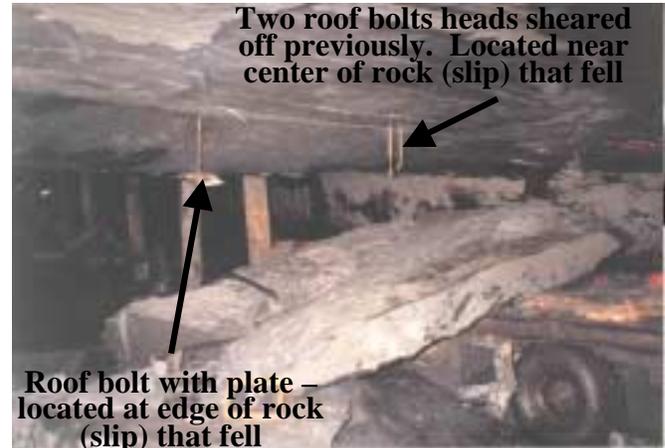
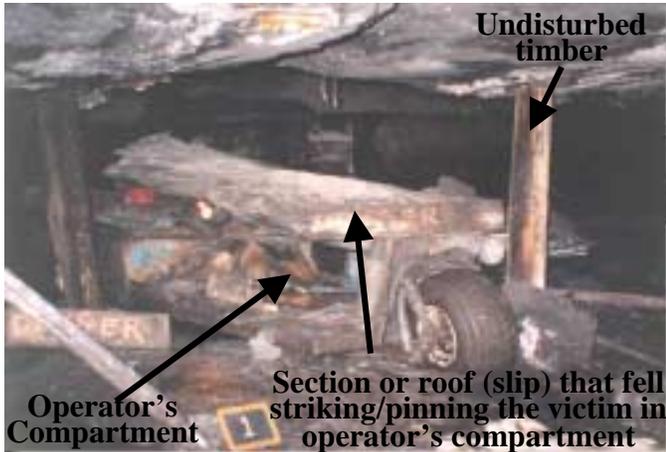


# H AZARD A LERT L IVE T OMORROW

## ROOF CONTROL SAFETY REMOVAL OF ROOF SUPPORTS



Two roof fall accidents occurred in 1998 that resulted in fatal injuries to miners that were removing roof supports. Both accidents occurred in areas previously supported with roof bolts. In one accident, cribs had been dislodged with a battery powered scoop following installation of supplemental roof bolts. The miner sustained fatal injuries when a section of loose roof fell on him as he was loading crib blocks into the scoop bucket. In the other accident, timbers installed along a conveyor belt entry were being removed to install a belt drive. This miner sustained fatal injuries when a section of loose roof fell on him as he was attempting to dislodge timbers with a three wheel personnel carrier. (photos above)

**REMEMBER: Miners engaged in removing roof supports must be constantly aware of loose or deteriorated roof which could become dislodged and fall.**

- All active work areas shall be secured sufficiently to protect miners from falls of roof.
- The methods and practices of mining being followed shall not expose miners to unusual hazards.
- Miners removing roof supports such as cribs or timbers, must always be aware of loose or dislodged roof material and avoid exposing yourself to hazards associated with such work.
- The person supervising roof support material removal shall always examine and test the mine roof in the areas where supports are to be removed.
- Every coal miner should be trained to examine and test the mine roof prior to and during removal of all types of roof support.
- Removal of roof supports shall always be done by miners who are positioned in a remote, safe location under supported roof.
- Additional safety precautions shall always be taken when cracks, faults, slips, and excessive weight are present in areas where roof supports are being removed.

### PLEASE POST "2003"

For additional information or assistance, contact the Division of Mines, Big Stone Gap (276) 523-8227 or Keen Mountain Field Office (276) 498-4533

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